Foodgrains Reserves

798. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of foodgrains reserves available with Government,

(b) the anticipated short-fall in the Kharif production and the procurement of foodgrains by the Government agencies; and

(c) whether the reserves stocks are adequate to meet the requirements of 1987-88?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) The total stock of foodgrains with the public agencies as on 1st October, 1987 was estimated at 16.90 million tonnes.

(b) It is too early to indicate the anticipated short-fall in kharif production and procurement.

(c) Yes, Sir, the stocks available are adequate to meet the present requirements of the public distribution system.

Damage caused by Drought and Hail Storms in Himachal Pradesh

799 SHRI ANAND SHARMA. Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of damages suffered by the farmers and food-growers of Himachal Pradesh by the recent hail storms and drought;

(b) whether the Government of Himachal Pradesh has submitted a detailed claim to the centre for relief; and

(c) the amount of relief provided to the State of Himachal Pradesh??

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) As per the memorandum on drought relief submitted by the State Government, the damage to agriculture and horticulture crops due to drought in Himachal Pradesh is estimated to be 4.20 hectares. No damage to crops were reported by flash floods in the memorandum.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Based on the report of the Central Team and recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief thereon, a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 18.11 crores for drought relief and Rs 0 93 crores for flood relief has been approved.

White Paper on Steel Industry

800. DR. H P SHARMA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to replies to Unstarred Question 1415 and Starred Question 266 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th August and 14th August, 1987 respectively and state:

(a) whether Government have since decided to bring out the long-awaited white paper on the steel industry;

(b) if so, what are the major areas sought to be covered by the White Paper; and

(c) whether Government have since reviewed the existing guidelines for the setting up of the composiet mills to ensure greater production and speedier import substitution?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) Government are engaged in reviewing the growth and present situation of the steel industry and mapping out its direction and course of development till the end of the century A strategy paper containing long-term perspective plan is currently under preparation which shall be considered by a Group headed by Member Incharge, Planning Commission. No time frame has been fixed in this regard.